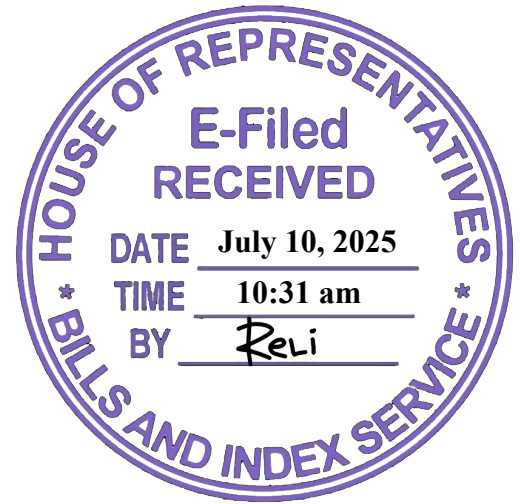


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City  
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
**House Bill No. 1740**



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**Introduced by Representative**

**BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA**

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**AN ACT CREATING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
DRIVERS, PROMOTING THEIR RIGHTS, WELFARE, AND SOCIAL PROTECTION,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Public transportation drivers are the backbone of the country's mobility system. Every day, they transport millions of Filipinos to work, school, and essential services—playing a central role in national productivity and social cohesion. Yet despite their importance, these drivers often work in precarious conditions, with little to no access to formal employment benefits, job security, or social protection.

This bill seeks to establish a Magna Carta for Public Transportation Drivers to formally recognize their role in national development and to guarantee their basic rights and welfare. It aims to uplift their status as workers by ensuring access to fair compensation, social security coverage, safe working conditions, access to health care, legal protection, and opportunities for training and career development.

It also responds to the urgent need to provide clear standards and safeguards for drivers amid the ongoing implementation of the Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization Program. As the transport system evolves, the State must ensure that no driver is left behind or displaced without proper support and safeguards.

This measure affirms the government's duty to protect the dignity of labor and to promote inclusive, equitable, and humane modernization in the public transport sector. By enacting this Magna Carta, we empower transport workers, strengthen the sector, and bring the country closer to a fair and resilient mobility system.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA  
Representative  
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Magna Carta for Public Transportation Drivers."

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of public transportation drivers in national development and to promote their rights, welfare, safety, and dignity. The State shall adopt measures that ensure decent working conditions, job security, access to social protection, training, and participation in decision-making processes affecting the transport sector.

**Section 3. Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to all public transportation drivers, including but not limited to drivers of jeepneys, buses, taxis, UV Express vans, and other land-based public utility vehicles, whether operating under traditional or modernized fleet systems.

**Section 4. Rights and Benefits of Public Transport Drivers.** – Public transport drivers shall enjoy the following rights and benefits:

- a) The right to a fair and livable minimum wage;
- b) Mandatory coverage under the Social Security System (SSS), PhilHealth, and the Pag-IBIG Fund;
- c) Access to retirement and other social insurance benefits;
- d) The right to safe and healthy working conditions, including regular physical and mental health check-ups;
- e) The right to self-organization and to collectively negotiate with the government, operators, or other entities, free from political interference or favor;
- f) Access to legal aid for work-related cases through government legal services;
- g) Protection against unfair termination or arbitrary reduction of work or routes without due process;
- h) The right to grievance redress mechanisms to address concerns with employers, operators, or government agencies.

**Section 5. Employment Contracts.** – All public transport drivers shall be entitled to written and formal employment contracts that specify work terms, compensation, benefits, work hours, rest periods, and grievance procedures. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall issue the minimum standards for such contracts.

**Section 6. Profit-Sharing Mechanism.** – A fair profit-sharing scheme between drivers and operators shall be developed by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), in consultation with stakeholders. The scheme shall ensure equitable income for drivers while balancing the sustainability of transport services. Additional details shall be determined through public hearings and consultations.

**Section 7. Social Protection During Modernization.** – The DOTr, in coordination with DOLE and relevant government agencies, shall ensure job security for drivers affected by the Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization Program. Displaced drivers shall be:

- a) Given priority for reassignment or reemployment within modernized fleets;
- b) Provided financial and livelihood support;
- c) Assured of non-discriminatory rehiring practices by consolidated entities.

**Section 8. Driver's Welfare Fund.** – There shall be established a Driver's Welfare Fund, to be administered by the DOTr, sourced from government appropriations.

The Fund shall be used exclusively for:

1. Emergency assistance to drivers;
2. Health care and mental health support;
3. Training programs;
4. Legal assistance;
5. Crisis response during emergencies or pandemics.

**Section 9. Training and Skills Development.** – All public transport drivers shall be entitled to free or subsidized access to skills training, upgrading, and certification programs through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other accredited providers. Such programs shall include road safety, customer service, digital literacy, and emerging technologies in transport systems.

**Section 10. Occupational Health and Safety.** – The DOLE, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), shall enforce occupational health and safety standards in the transport sector. Public transport drivers shall undergo:

- a) Annual physical and mental health check-ups;
- b) Workplace safety orientations;
- c) Free vaccinations and health services during public health emergencies.

**Section 11. Grievance Mechanism.** – The DOTr, in coordination with DOLE and concerned LGUs, shall establish a grievance mechanism to address and resolve complaints raised by public transport drivers, including issues involving violations of this Act, labor disputes, abuse, and safety concerns.

**Section 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOTr, DOLE, and other concerned agencies shall issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) in consultation with transport associations, labor groups, civil society, and the private sector.

**Section 13. Appropriations.** – The initial funding for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budget of concerned implementing agencies. Thereafter, the necessary amounts shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Section 14. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 15. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 16. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Poe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

Representative

FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List